

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE  
3 VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM  
4 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
5 TO WORK WITH THE LAS VEGAS VETERANS COMMITTEE ON A  
6 FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE FUNDING THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO  
7 CREATE THE LAS VEGAS ARMORY CENTER.

8  
9 WHEREAS, the development of the Las Vegas armory center,  
10 formerly known as the "old armory building", has been  
11 initiated by a group of veterans who served with three New  
12 Mexico national guard battalions; and

13 WHEREAS, the members of the three New Mexico national  
14 guard battalions, in anticipation of war, volunteered early,  
15 fifteen months before the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

16 WHEREAS, one of the three battalions, the 200th coast  
17 artillery, was the first to fight but lacked support because  
18 the country was not fully prepared; and

19 WHEREAS, the second battalion, the 120th combat engineer  
20 battalion, together with the southwestern 45th infantry, saw  
21 the most days of direct combat, five hundred eleven, of any  
22 division in the Pacific or Atlantic theaters; and

23 WHEREAS, the 120th combat engineer battalion was the  
24 first national guard unit federalized to go to Bataan; and

25 WHEREAS, the 45th infantry had the largest number of

1 Hispanics and Native Americans of any division; and

2 WHEREAS, the 45th infantry was lauded by General George  
3 Patton as the first to serve under his command, and Marshall  
4 Kesselring, overall German commander in the Mediterranean  
5 area, said that it was one of the two best United States  
6 divisions against which he had ever fought; and

7 WHEREAS, the third battalion, the 804th tank destroyer  
8 battalion, saw honorable action in Italy and Germany; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico veterans have served with  
10 distinction throughout the state's history, and there are  
11 currently over one hundred ninety thousand veterans in the  
12 state; and

13 WHEREAS, the community of Las Vegas voted to preserve  
14 the old armory building and create the Las Vegas veterans  
15 center in order to serve the needs of northern New Mexico;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, there is a coordinated initiative, through the  
18 Las Vegas veterans committee, to use the "old armory  
19 building" as the Las Vegas armory center for education,  
20 training, housing, medical and social services and general  
21 economic development for veterans;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the work of the Las Vegas veterans  
24 committee to preserve and restore the "old armory building"  
25 and convert it into the Las Vegas armory center be

1 recognized; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Las Vegas veterans  
3 committee be requested to work with the New Mexico  
4 congressional delegation, the veterans' services department,  
5 an appropriate interim legislative committee and the  
6 legislative finance committee to complete, by  
7 October 31, 2005, a study of the feasibility of obtaining the  
8 funding that would be needed to make the Las Vegas armory  
9 center a reality; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the Las Vegas veterans committee, the New  
12 Mexico congressional delegation, the veterans' services  
13 department, the New Mexico legislative council and the  
14 legislative finance committee. \_\_\_\_\_

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